

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The specification is amended by the present response to correct for minor informalities and to make minor clarifications. The changes made to the specification are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

Claims 1, 2, and 5-30 are pending in this application. Claims 3 and 4 are cancelled herein without prejudice and claim 30 is added by the present response. Claims 8-29 stand withdrawn from consideration. Claim 1 was objected to for an informality. Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 3,097,280 to Schimming et al. (herein "Schimming") in view of U.S. patent 4,004,118 to Boersma et al. (herein "Boersma"). Claims 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Schimming in view of Boersma, as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. patent 4,379,957 to Calvino.

Addressing first the objection to claim 1, that objection is traversed by the present response as claim 1 is amended to delete the term noted as unclear.

Addressing the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, that rejection is obviated by the present response as claim 3 is cancelled without prejudice by the present response.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Schimming in view of Boersma, and the further rejection of claims 5-7 further in view of Calvino, those rejections are traversed by the present response.

It is initially noted that claim 1 is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein, and particularly to clarify the structure of the "plurality of switching devices"

the “conductive container”, and to further recite “driving units” and “insulated control rods”. The subject matter of the “driving units” and “insulated control rods” is fully supported by the original specification, see as non-limiting examples drive mechanism 48 and control rods 52 and 53 in the present specification.

The claimed features are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art.

Schimming discloses contacts 7, 8 disposed inside interrupting chambers 1 and 2, which are then connected to a single actuating chamber 3. That is, in Schimming the interrupting chambers 1 and 2, in which the same kind of two contacts are disposed, are connected to another actuating chamber 3.

In contrast to Schimming, in the claims as currently written, a contact of at least one disconnecting switch disposed in an insulating container and a contact of a circuit breaker are connected to a conductive container formed of metal. As a non-limiting example, see the present specification with respect to the at least one disconnecting contact 35 and circuit breaker contact 47. That is, in the claims as currently written, a contact of a disconnecting switch and a contact of a circuit breaker are utilized and connected to a metal container.

Such features are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied, particularly as Schimming fails to disclose or suggest the container being formed of a conductive material.

Moreover, Schimming fails to teach or suggest the use of the “driving units” and “insulated control rods” through which open/close operations of the disconnecting switch and circuit breaker can be independently performed.

Further, the claimed invention provides benefits that cannot be achieved in the applied art. With the claimed invention, mounting and/or dismounting of a circuit breaker contact and disconnecting a contact to or from the metal container can be easily performed in a short period. Moreover, even if the insulation of one of the switching devices breaks down and a

short-circuit occurs, the other switching device performs continuous operation properly, and thereby it becomes possible to replace only the one broken switching device.

Further, according to the claimed invention, the open-close operations of the disconnecting switch and the circuit breaker can be independently performed.

The above-noted benefits do not appear to be achieved in the applied art.

Moreover, no teachings in either Boersma or Calvino can overcome the above-noted deficiencies in Schimming.

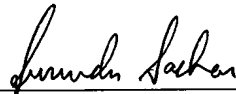
The present response also sets forth new dependent claim 30, which is believed to further distinguish over the applied art, reciting specifics of the driving unit. As a non-limiting example in the present specification, the driving unit can include a drive direction converting member 48a and a shaft 48c, further distinguishing over the applied art.

In such ways, each of the pending and examined claims 1, 2, 5-7, and new dependent claim 30, are believed to distinguish over the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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